

service at Fort McCoy, CSM Bissonette helped transform this vital national training center into one of the Army's best and most effective of the seven active Army Power Projection Platforms. I know his leadership will be greatly missed at the base and surrounding communities, but I am thankful for his leadership and contributions to ensuring that Fort McCoy remains a shining star in the nation's military training infrastructure.

On behalf of my constituents in Wisconsin and a grateful nation, I would like to thank and commend CSM Bissonette for his years of dedicated service in the U.S. Army and in particular as Garrison Command Sergeant Major at Fort McCoy. My best wishes to him, his wife Katherine and their children Michael and Samantha.

IN RECOGNITION OF MALALA
YOUSAFZAI

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Malala Yousafzai. On October 9, 2012—one year ago today—Malala was the target of an assassination attempt by the Taliban because she chose to speak out against their efforts to ban girls from school in her Swat Valley neighborhood of Pakistan. Since then, Malala has emerged as a leading voice for underprivileged children, especially girls, in the fight for global education equality.

Along with former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and the “A World at School” movement, Malala will work to raise \$500 million over the next three years to provide education to the 300,000 Syrian school-aged children living in Lebanon. In addition to this and winning an International Children's Peace Prize for her overall efforts, Malala was recently honored at the opening dedication of Europe's largest public library. In a recent address given at the UN, she reiterated her mission, “They thought that the bullets would silence us, but they failed . . . and then, out of that silence, came thousands of voices.”

For many, Malala Yousafzai, is a symbol of resilience and courage in her fight for global education equality. Please join me in supporting Malala and her efforts on the anniversary of the Taliban's heinous failed assassination attempt. I proudly acknowledge and encourage her to continue her efforts for education equality.

HONORING MYERS FLOWER SHOP
AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the Branford community and the Myers family as they celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Myers Flower Shop—a remarkable milestone for this community institution.

Charles Myers had a unique passion for flowers. Following his studies at Yale University, he dedicated himself to the establishment of a premier flower shop, opening his first location at 936 Chapel Street in New Haven, Connecticut in 1913. In 1940 the shop moved to 28 Whitney Avenue and just seven years later, Charles, while doing what he loved best, suffered a fatal heart attack at the shop. His wife, who had been a long-time assistant at the shop, stepped in to fill the breach until 1950 when his son, Allan, returned home and took over the operation of the family business. Following Alan's passing in 1959, his wife, Sue took up the reins until the third generation of the Myers family, their son Chuck and his wife, Elsie, assumed the leadership role in 1971. Despite the many changes, the business flourished and a new branch was opened in Branford and then another in Guilford. Though the New Haven and Guilford shops have since closed, the Branford shop continues to be a staple of Branford's merchant center at its location at 1008 Main Street. Today, grand-daughters Lee-Ellen and Elsie run the store with the same strong sense of hard-work and passion that was the trademark of Charles Myers.

As it was recently described by one of his grand-daughters, when Myers celebrated its grand-opening, life expectancy was about forty-seven years, few doctors went to college, most babies were born at home, and the speed limit was set at 15 mph to prevent Model T cars from spooking horses. So many things have changed over the course of its one hundred year history, but the one constant has been the company's commitment to outstanding customer service. Lee-Ellen and Elsie remain committed to ensuring that the legacy of their grandfather thrives—bringing flowers from all over the world to its customers, offering great quality and excellent service to every client, and doing whatever they can to make the lives of others just a little bit brighter.

In a recent article about the centennial celebration, Albert Canosa wrote: “Every industry has its legacies. The Kennedys are synonymous with politics. The Fords are the kings of automobiles. And here in Branford, Connecticut, the legacy of Charles Myers is associated with flowers.” Myers Flower Shop is a community treasure—a classic example of the American entrepreneurial spirit and the very essence of what we so often describe as the American Dream. I am proud to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Lee-Ellen, Elsie, and the entire Myers family as they mark this centennial celebration and wish them all the best for continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, Monday night I meant to vote against H.J. Res 77. This Resolution was just the latest bill to come to the floor as part of the Republicans' foolish strategy. Funding the federal government one program or agency at a time is a reckless approach, and one I strongly oppose.

To be clear, I support full funding for the Food and Drug Administration along with the

entire federal government. Ensuring our food, medications, and medical devices are safe is important. Halting these critical activities is already impacting our communities and the effects will only continue as long as Republicans refuse to bring a clean Continuing Resolution to the floor.

It is time to end this manufactured shutdown, get our federal workers back on the job, and fund every federal program and agency at once.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF PARATRANSIT,
INC.

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paratransit, Inc. as they celebrate their 35th anniversary. As staff, passengers, and supporters of this vital transportation life-line gather to celebrate, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing them for their invaluable service to the Sacramento region.

For the past thirty-five years, Paratransit has served countless individuals with disabilities and the elderly by offering door-to-door transportation services, allowing them the mobility to lead quality lives. Since its inception in 1978, Paratransit, a private nonprofit corporation, has been innovative in providing a public transportation system with fully accessible options, as well as working with other local nonprofit agencies, assisting them in delivering much needed client-focused transportation. In 1981, Paratransit became the first designated Consolidated Transportation Services Agencies in the State of California. In 1992 with the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, The Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) and Paratransit partnered to implement the law in the most effective and efficient method to provide service to those with disabilities. That same year, the Community Transportation Association of America named Paratransit, Inc. as Transit System of the Year.

Paratransit's diverse services include a mobility training program that provides assistance to people to learn how to ride RT's buses and light rail cars, giving them independence to work, visit senior centers, go shopping or to doctor appointments, and visit friends and relatives. In 2012, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments honored Paratransit as the Regional Organization of the Year. Their successful Wheels to Work employment program, partners with Women's Empowerment, The Sacramento County Department of Human Services, The Sacramento Housing Alliance, Sacramento Steps Forward, and The California Department of Rehabilitation to help people get employment by providing low-income individuals with job counseling, interview preparation and other services. Also in 2012, Paratransit received the Innovative Transportation Program from the Women's Transportation Seminar for their forward thinking efforts.

Paratransit's maintenance division services its fleet of 150 vehicles, as well as the fleets of 20 other agencies, to ensure safe and reliable public transportation options. It also repairs accessibility equipment, such as lifts and